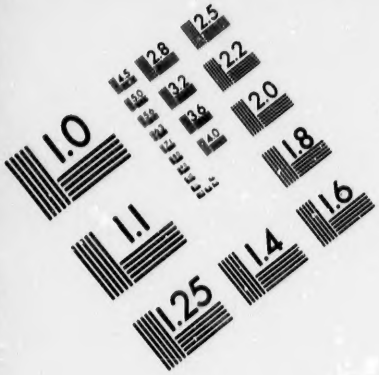
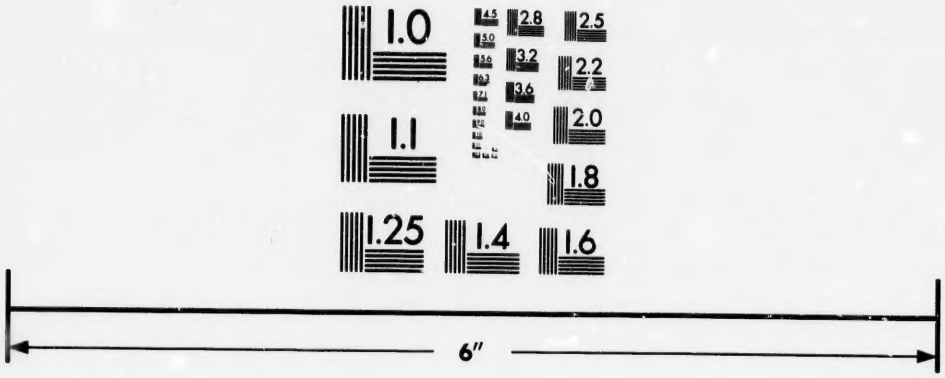
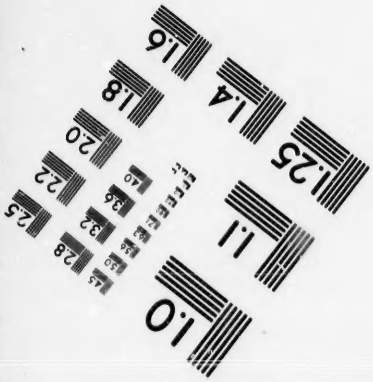
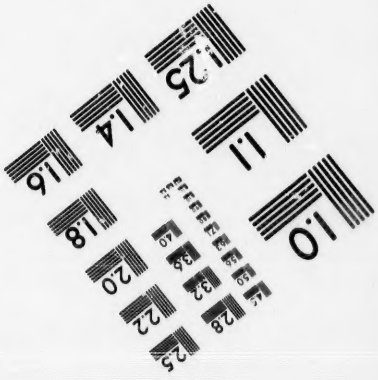


IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)







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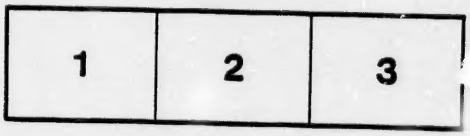
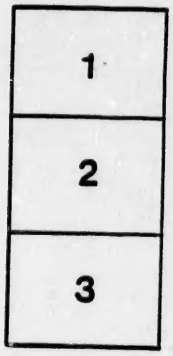
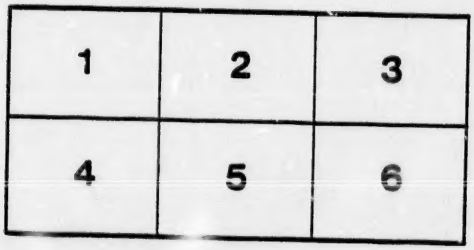






MA COUSINE ANGELE.

A NEW YEAR'S GIFT.

(From the French of Henri Murger.)

By William McLellan.

We, both of us, have left behind us in the past
A time when Youth and Love swayed all beneath their spell.
I see it all again. Dos't thou remember, too,
That Paradise of Youth?—*O ma cousine Angele!*

Those days have long since fled; ~~but~~ and ah! how oft we've heard
The flying years go past, each pealing out its knell;
And all our laughing youth, like Summer's latest bird,
Has flown forever now,—*O ma cousine Angele!*
As eagerly we sped, from opened school-room door,
To dance with flying feet and sing the *ritournelle*,
"We'll seek no more the wood, the laurel's lying low,"
We'll seek no more the wood,—*O ma cousine Angele!*

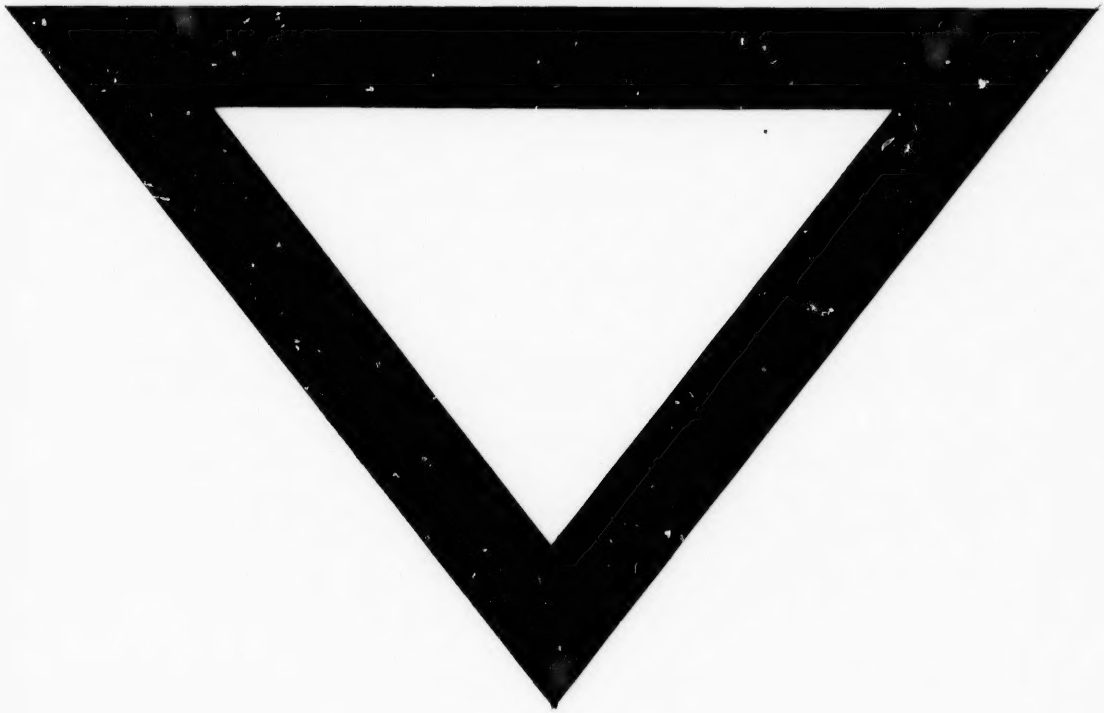
With kinder Fate than mine your feet have never strayed
Afar from hearth and home. A mother's accents tell
The tale of sacred love till you have learnt by heart
What I have lost for aye,—*O ma cousine Angele!*

All day with busy cares your gentle hands are filled:
All night an angel guards full carefully and well,
Your slumbers from all harm, and only blessed dreams
Float down from Heaven to you,—*O ma cousine Angele!*

Your voice is just as sweet as is your gentle name,
Within your tender eyes all goodness seems to dwell,
Like some fair flower your life spreads all its fragrance round
And fills the home with love,—*O ma cousine Angele!*

You know when New Year's came how joyously I'd fly
And with a fluttering heart beneath your glance, *ma belle*,
I'd lay the humble gift, the best my purse could buy,
To win your gracious smile,—*O ma cousine Angele!*

Those days are fled, alas! And now within my purse
I haven't two brass *sous* wherewith to ring a knell.
On Plutus, God of Wealth, I loudly call, but fear
He's deaf as well as blind,—*O ma cousine Angele!*

And so I send to-day no present to you, dear
No startling novelty nor costly bagatelle;
No gem with carvings quaint by some new Cellini—
Not e'en a box of sweets,—*O ma cousine Angele!*

Naught but a cousin's kiss, a touch of clinging hands,
And e'en from me such gifts your heart can ne'er repel.
And then these feeble rhymes which you'll forget this eve,
If not to-morrow morn,—*O ma cousine Angele!*